

# New Zealand

## I. The Other Englanders of the South Pacific

By W. Pember Reeves

Author of "A History of New Zealand"

OF all parts of the earth New Zealand is the best suited to be the dwelling-place of a white race. The death rate of its colonists is the lowest in the world, and its bracing climate is usually as pleasant as it is healthy. Yet by the irony of fate these fortunate islands were among the last discoveries of the white man, and were a very late addition to the dominions of the British Crown. Men still living can remember the time when their value was regarded by English official opinions as unproved, and a generation has scarcely elapsed since the stability and solvency of the colony (as the Dominion then was) were gravely doubted by critical writers in London newspapers.

That the fertile and beautiful archipelago remained through countless ages untrodden by man; that it was sparsely occupied by brown-skinned, sea-roving savages from tropical Polynesia only about seven centuries ago; and that it was not discovered by a European navigator until one hundred and fifty years after Columbus had found the New World, may be

explained very simply by its isolation. Remote as Australia was from our forefathers, New Zealand was remoter still. Twelve hundred miles from Australia, about the same distance from the nearest Polynesian islands of the Pacific, four thousand miles from South America, New Zealand is much off the maritime tracks followed by our ancestors.

It was a far cry there before the days of steam. It still takes passengers some seven weeks to get there from London. Handicap as this is on trading activities, it has had one advantageous effect on the population. The distance and expense

of the voyage have kept away the poorest, most ignorant, and least efficient classes of emigrants from Europe, especially from the continent of Europe. Immigrants to New Zealand are either persons assisted by Government, in which case they are of British birth and carefully selected, or they are men and women of some knowledge, energy, and boldness with means enough to provide the wherewithal for the long journey. The result of this rough process of sifting is the virile, intelligent



OLD AGE TASTEFULLY TATTOOED

To meet with a Maori so remarkably ornamented as this is becoming increasingly rare, tattooing being more and more confined to the women



#### LOADING THE CUT STALKS OF PHORMIUM FOR THE FLAX MILL

Among the Maoris the leaves of the phormium, or New Zealand flax plant, have always been extensively used for the making of clothing, fishing-lines, and mats. A machine has been invented that extracts the best fibres from each leaf; these are considered inferior only to Manila hemp in strength and are made up into binder twine. The leaves grow from about five to eight feet high

community now in existence there. The voyager, when he sights the New Zealand coast, sees a green, sunlit land telling of a clear, cool air and a plentiful rainfall. More often than not he is faced by precipitous cliffs against which deep blue, wind-tormented seas break noisily. Even where the shores are long beaches of sand or shingle the low land behind them is backed by hills or mountains; for the islands rise steeply from the ocean, and to the eye have a height and dignity which suggest to the imaginative that they seem relics of a vast, sunken continent. In fact, New Zealand is a mountainous, slender, wasp-waisted archipelago of two large and a good many small islands. Its size, exceeding that of Great Britain, is very nearly that of Italy with Sicily. Its slim curving shape caused its Maori inhabitants to call it a fish, reminds Australians of a boomerang, and to Englishmen recalls a riding-boot. Its long, lofty,

dorsal ranges, running north-east and south-west, cut off the eastern from the western provinces to an extent which has laid a costly tax on the engineering energies of its people.

These spinal ridges are no narrow wall, but are formidable barriers made up of more or less parallel chains which with their spurs take up much of the surface of North and still more of South Island. Only in the east-central and extreme south of South Island is there any wide extent of level or low, rolling country. The North Island is luckier. There the districts of Hawke's Bay, Gisborne, Wanganui, Taranaki, Waikato, and Thames are admirably suited for either sheep or dairy farming, sometimes for both. The long, narrow, indented peninsula which the North Island sends up towards sub-tropical latitudes is becoming a home of fruit-growing, as might be expected in a climate where palm trees, oranges, and lemons flourish,



## NEW ZEALAND & ITS PEOPLES

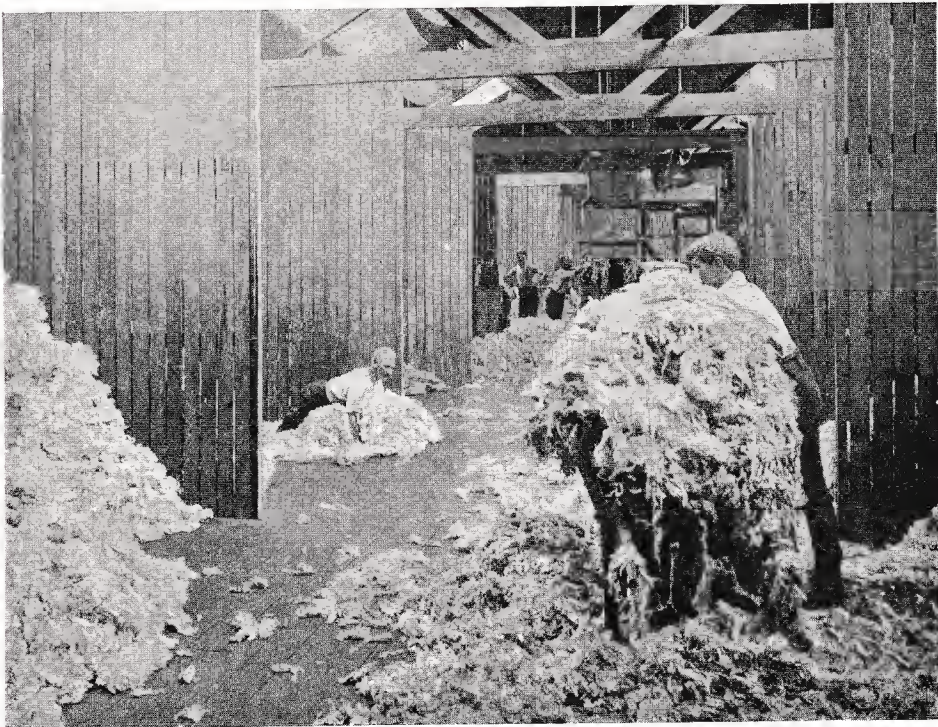
and a species of mangrove fringes the beaches for miles.

Mountainous as New Zealand is, all but about one-sixth of it is, or may gradually be made, useful for crop, timber, or pasture. The stretches of eternal snow in the Southern Alps are limited, and except in the west of the South Island there are no very large expanses of commercially useless country. The eastern and central mountains, up to the snow line, supply rough but useful grasses, and a multitude of hills, low or high, in both islands, are excellent grazing country. Nowhere is industry hindered by lack of rain. On the contrary. In the south-west the downpour is excessive, and everywhere rivers large and small find their way to the sea at short intervals.

Most of these are mountain torrents, cold, swift, and fiercely rapid and turbid

when in flood. Their number makes bridge-building a necessary and very expensive item in the bill for New Zealand development. Only one or two, notably the Waikato, are made much use of for traffic. Several others, such as the Wanganui and Mokau, flow under forest-clad hills and cliffs luxuriantly clothed with a tropical-looking mantle of trees, shrubs, ferns, climbing parasites, and mosses of wild and extraordinary beauty. It is not, however, the rivers, but the lakes, fiords, mountain-passes, glaciers, and—in the North Island—volcanic cones and geysers that are the most striking and uncommon of the scenic features of the islands.

With these may be classed the native forest, which, though terribly ravaged by the axe and fire-stick of the settlers' clearances, can still show in the wilder tracts a curious and beautiful flora

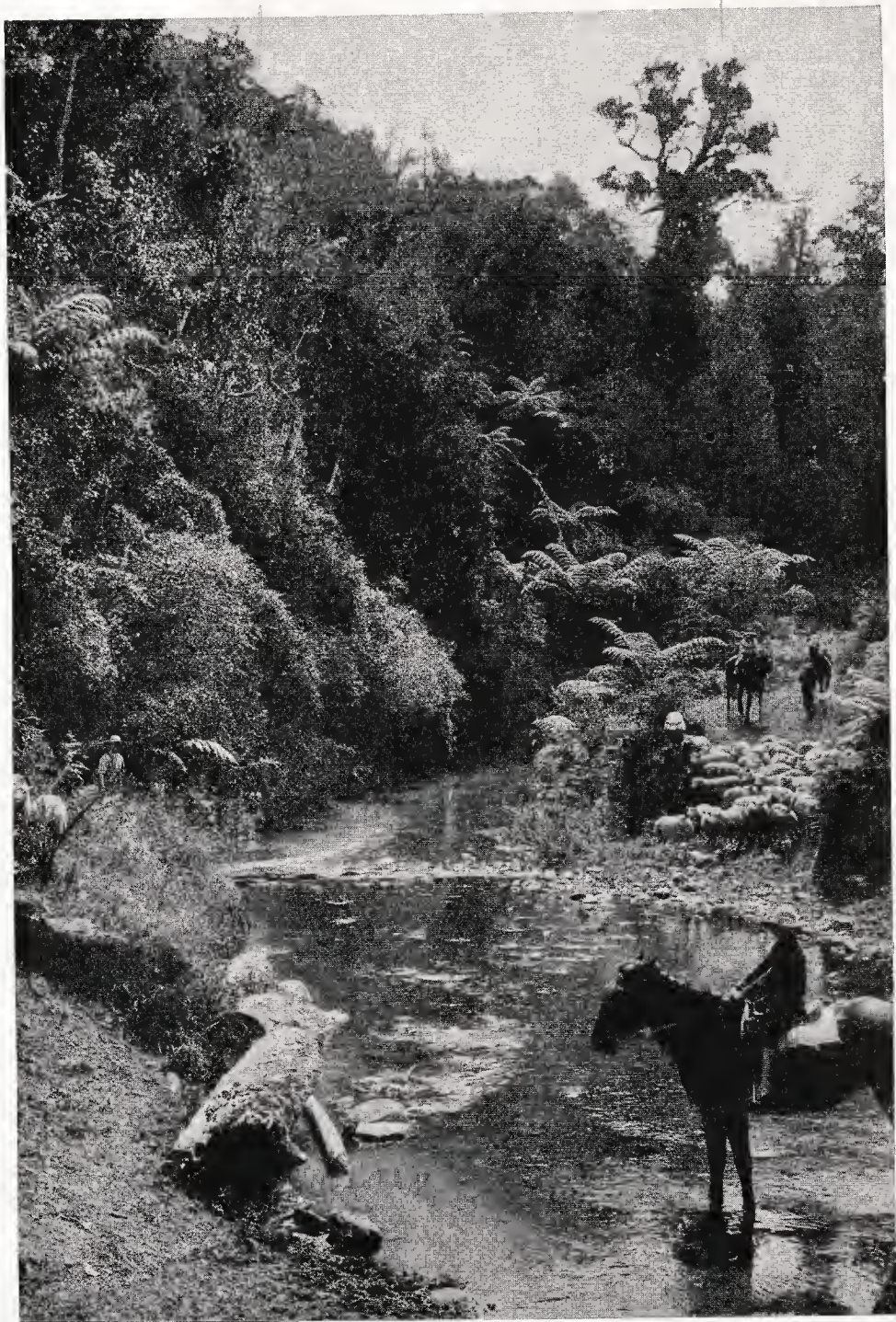


**HEAPED MASSES OF CLIPPED FLEECE BEING SORTED FOR EXPORT**

Wool fresh from the sheep has to go through a variety of processes before it is fit for the factory. Here it is being sorted in accordance with the different materials into which it will be made, such as hosiery, flannel, tweed, linings, and dress-goods. Besides this, any foreign matter picked up by the animal, particularly burrs, must be removed

*Photo, New Zealand Government*





#### HOMING FLOCKS WITH THEIR YOUTHFUL MOUNTED SHEPHERDS

Part of the woolly throng have forded the shallow, unalarming waters of this stone-strewn creek, while the remainder, with sheepish uncertainty, await the urging of their master, with much self-protective jostling and crowding and many a worried bleat. Tree ferns mingling with the woods alone suggest this is not some English scene but a pastoral of the South Pacific

*Photo, New Zealand Government*



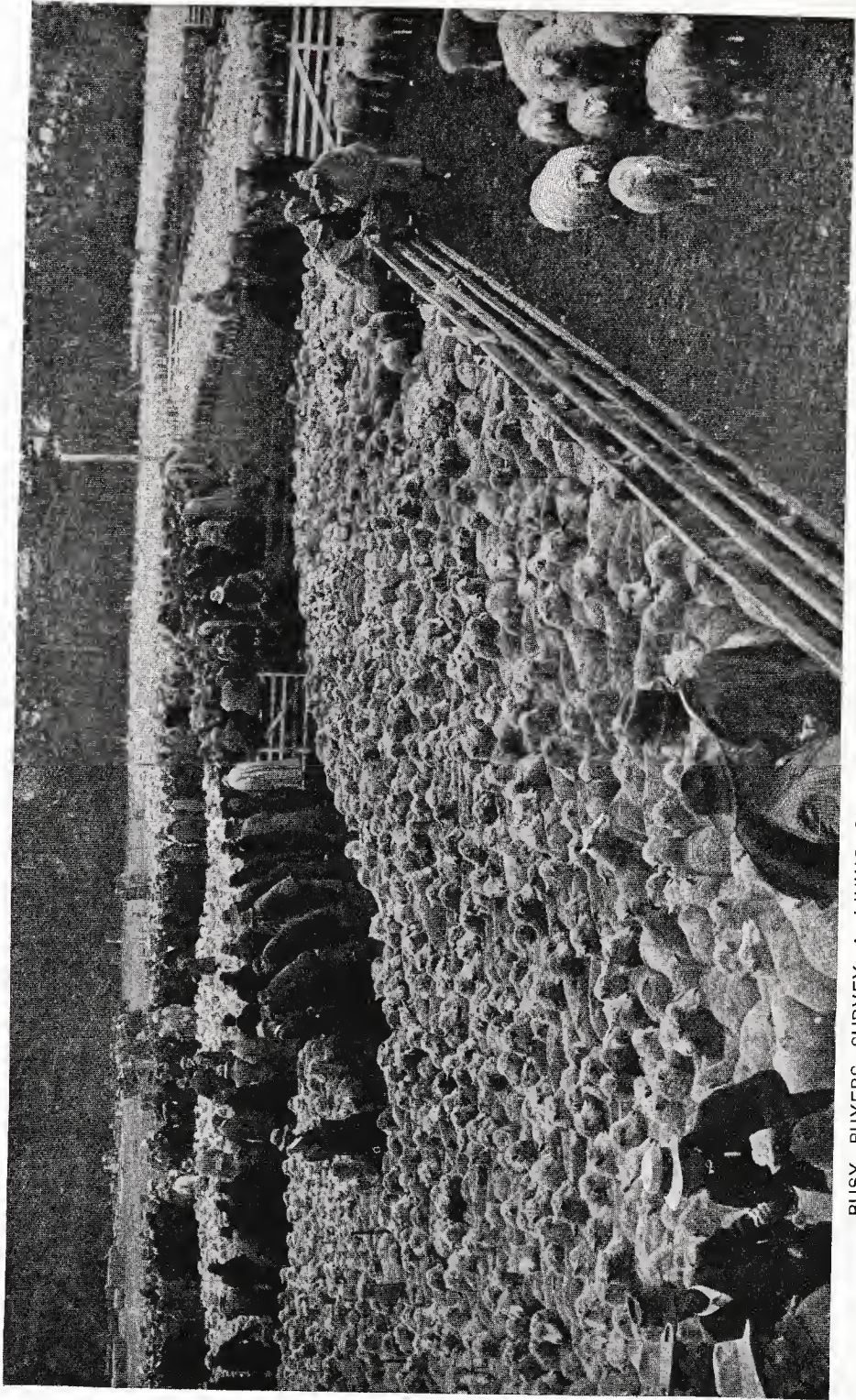


#### COMPULSORY BATH THAT KEEPS THE FLOCKS IN HEALTH

On all large sheep-runs sheep-dipping is carried out at intervals to prevent foot-rot, kill parasites, and improve the quality of the wool. The beasts are collected in a pen and driven through the dip, the depth of which increases till they are forced to swim. As explained and illustrated on page 254 some germicide such as arsenic is usually added to the water

*Photo, New Zealand Government*

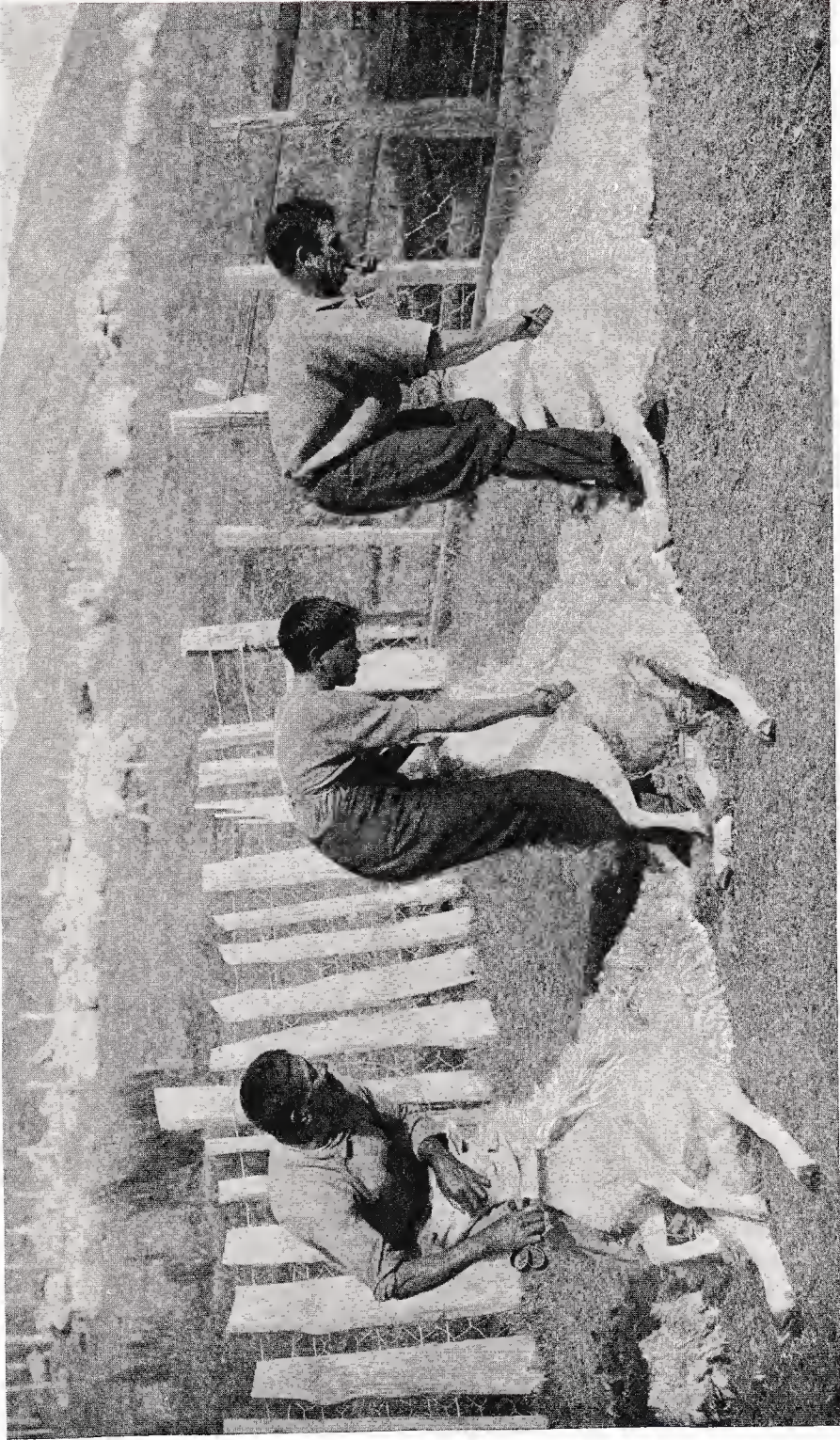




# **BUSY BUYERS SURVEY A LIVING SEA OF WOOL IN THE SHEEP MARKET AT GLENMARK**

Over the heads of the huddled sheep prospective purchasers from the refrigerating firms lean and discuss merit and price. All over South Island these sheep markets are to be found, often some miles from the nearest station or store. It is estimated that there are rather more than twenty-two million of these animals in the Dominion, which includes within its sea-embosomed area some of the world's finest sections of country. Glenmark is in the center of Wainmora forest.





**SHEARERS ON A NEW ZEALAND SHEEP-RUN TRANSFORM THE SHAGGY BEASTS TO SEEMING NAKEDNESS**

Sheep-shearing by hand is becoming increasingly replaced by machine-shearing, and in this way between one hundred and fifty to two hundred animals may be dealt with by a skilled operator in one day. Here, however, former methods are in force, the men showing such skill that the entire fleece is removed in one unbroken mass as though the beasts had been skinned. This work is usually done soon after the sheep have been dipped, a few days being allowed for drying

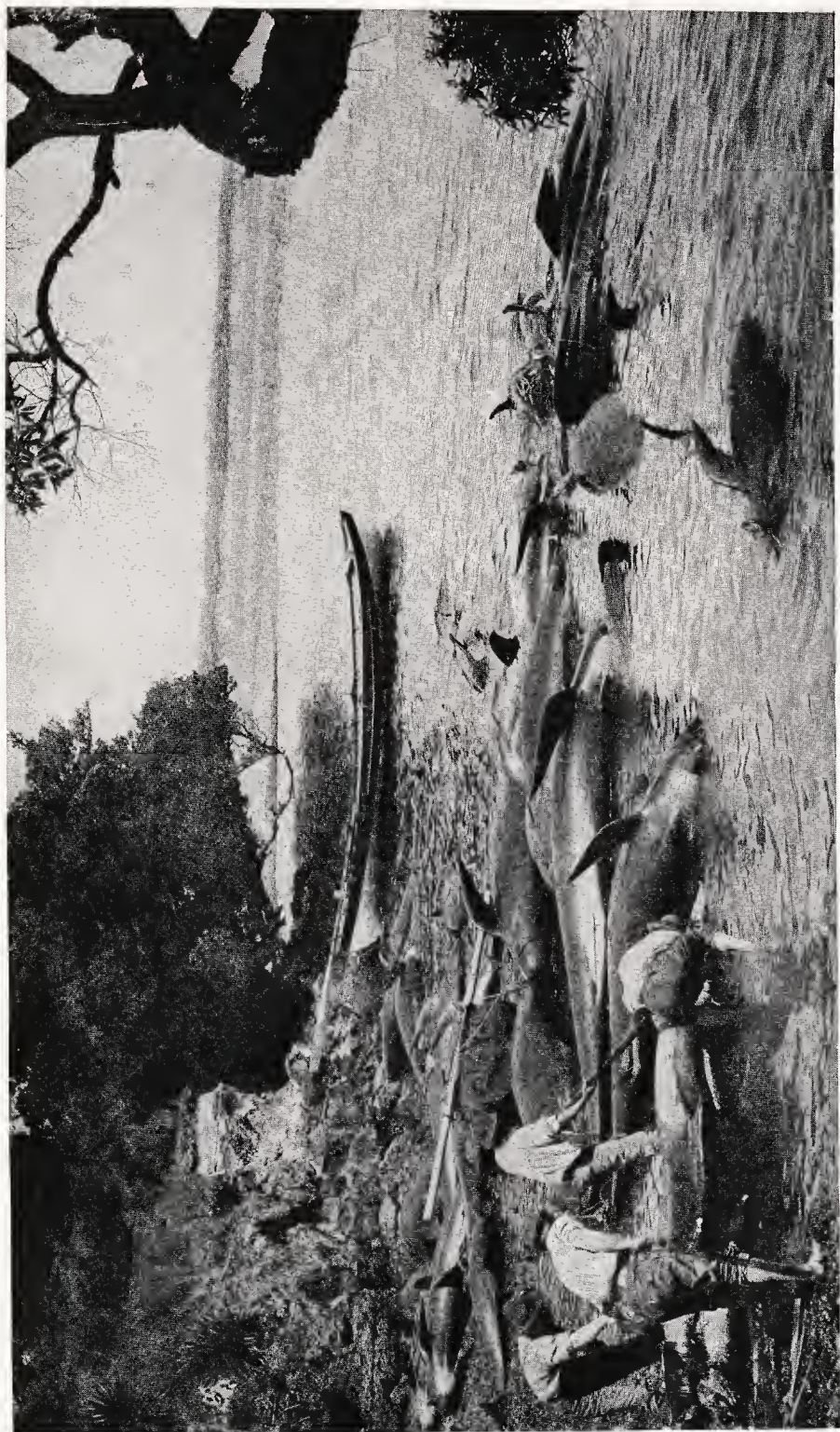




PEACEFUL BOATING ON THE STILL LAKE BENEATH THE DARK PILE OF TARAWERA THE TREACHEROUS

Upon the farther shore of the lake the grim aspect of the mountain-sides displays a curious rounded appearance, like furrows of some giant's ploughing, and gives a reminder of the eruptive tendencies of Mount Tarawera, seen behind. In 1886 this volcano, then believed to be extinct, burst disastrously into sudden eruption, hurling the entire basin of a lake bodily hundreds of feet into the sky and smothering the locality with mud and red-hot rocks. The famous White and Pink Terraces were completely obliterated.





SHOAL OF SMALL WHALES WHICH THE OUTGOING TIDE HAS STRANDED UPON THE BEACH AT KAIPARA

Known locally as black-fish this species of whale haunts the coasts and may be seen in shoals, a hundred or more together, disporting on the surface and sometimes even leaping from the water. These creatures are impetuous swimmers, and regularly some of their number, approaching the shore too nearly, are left high and dry when the ebb tide flows. Then the coast-dwellers come down to the beach and secure their prizes. Here several men are engaged in cutting up stranded carcasses at Kaipara, a natural harbour of North Island, whose shelving shore is a veritable whale trap

*Photo, New Zealand Government*





AT THE SAW'S LAST STROKE THE KAURI TOPPLES IN SPLENDID RUIN  
Soaring one hundred and fifty feet into the air the kauri pine is one of New Zealand's largest and most useful native trees. Its wood, of a light yellow and close grained, is much used in cabinet-making and joinery, and even for ship-building, while resin is yielded from its bark. Here, after much activity with axe and saw, the giant bows itself in headlong destruction

*Photo, New Zealand Government*





#### PREPARING TO COPE WITH A TRUNK THAT DWARFS BOTH MEN AND TOOLS

When the monster has at length been laid low a formidable job, no less than the cutting through of the mighty girth with axe and saw, confronts the lumberman. To reach a suitable position from which to start work, a staging of poles is erected, and a section of the bark having been removed, two men work the heavy saw

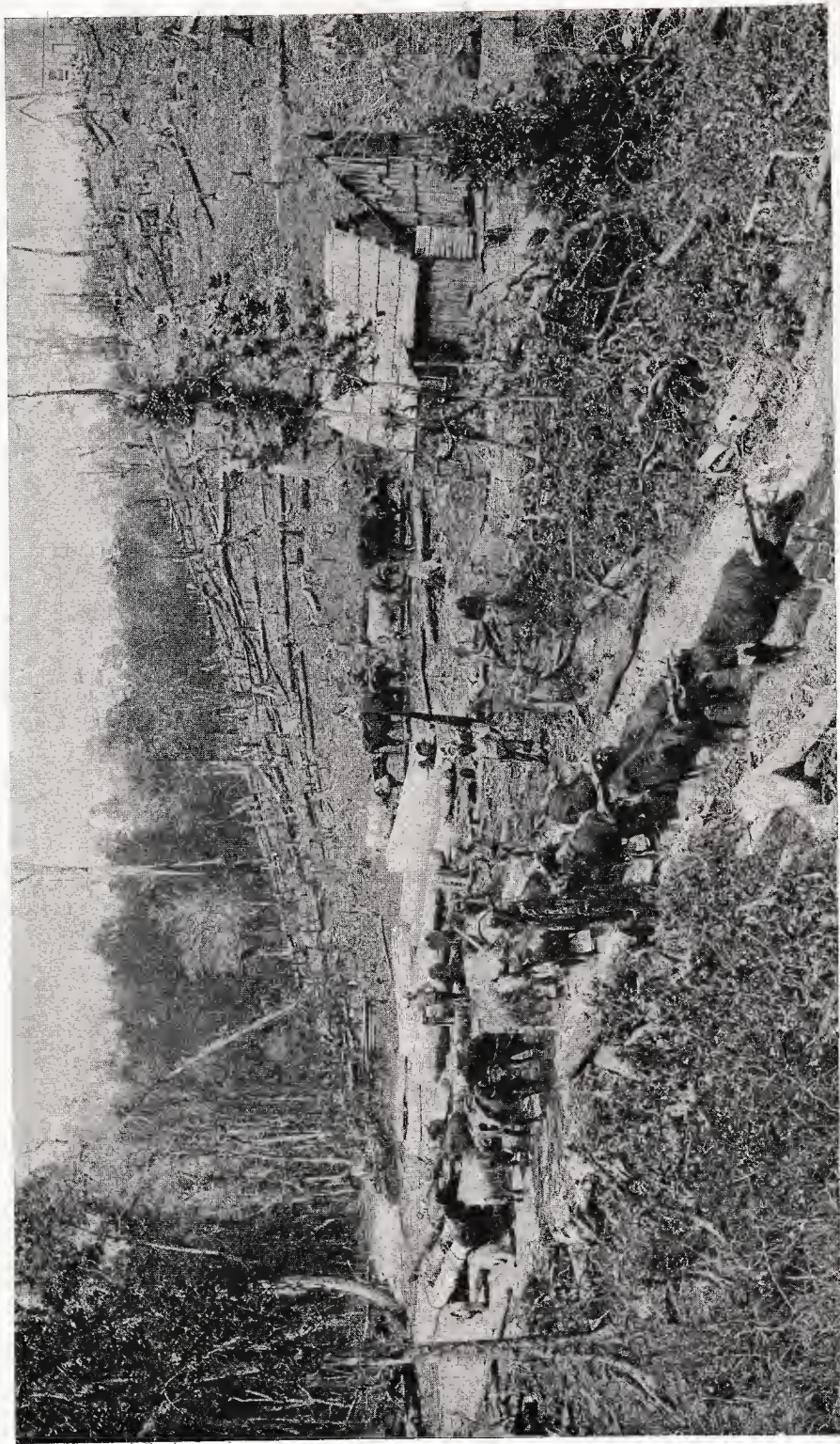
*Photo, New Zealand Government*

like nothing else in the temperate zones. The celebrated New Zealand fjords, easily visited by steamer in the summer-time, surpass those of Norway in beauty, thanks to the richness, variety, and softness of the flora which clothes their tremendous cliffs and the flanks of the Alps towering above them. In the centre and north-east of the North Island stretches the thermal springs district, where, over an area of several thousand square miles, volcanic activities, grand and impressive, repulsive or merely odd, are in daily evidence. There are found popular sanatoria, the resort of sufferers from rheumatic and skin diseases. There rise the lofty cones of volcanoes, some active, one of which reaches 9,000 feet, though the most beautifully regular cone in the southern hemisphere, Mount Egmont, is

not there, but away westward on the coast of Taranaki. Taupo, the chief lake of the thermal region, measures over two hundred square miles, but, picturesque as it is, it does not equal in beauty the best of the cold, Alpine lakes of the South Island Manipouri, which, in shape almost as irregular as Lucerne, is a wonderful piece of greenly-draped romantic, unspoiled nature. Most of the chief trading harbours are picturesque as well as useful, a combination which is especially remarkable in the Waitemata, the port of Auckland.

Of the outlying islands of New Zealand the Chathams are the one settled group, and their inhabitants only number some hundreds, many of them Maori. The whites are sheep farmers and, but for their isolation, are rather an enviable community, for their pleasant islands





SEVEN YOKE OF OXEN THAT HAUL THE NEW-FELLED LOGS FROM STRIPPED WOODLAND TO SAW-MILL

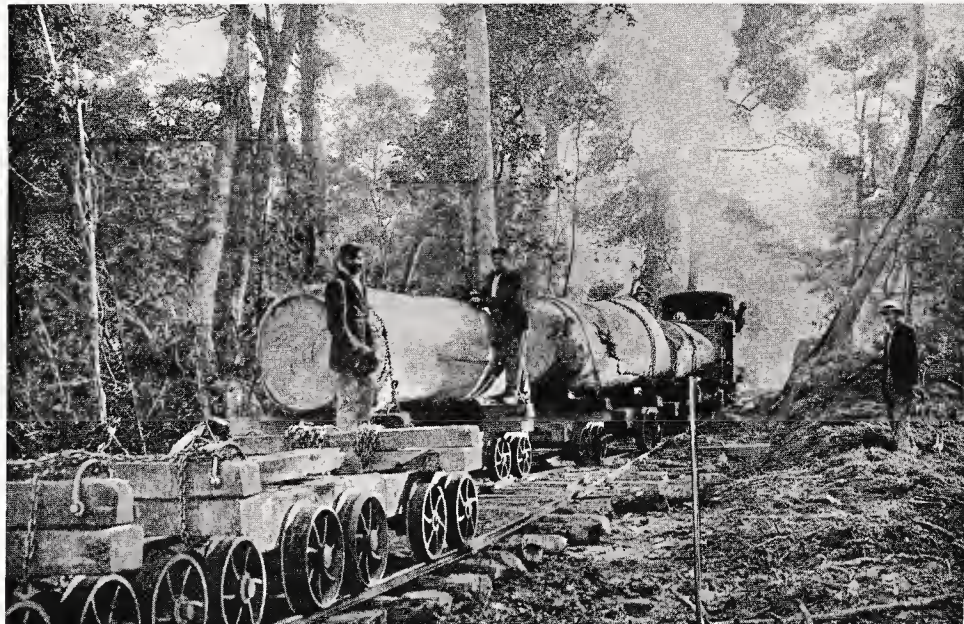
On the gentle slope that might have been lately swept by a tornado, prostrate logs and hacked stumps are all that is left of a green copse. At the bottom and on the summit of the knoll woodsmen have built rough shacks constructed entirely of the one material of which there is a superabundance and affording temporary shelter till a new area is to be cleared. Then a fresh shack will be as easily put together, an abode without much domestic significance, but nevertheless all the lumbermen in their ceaselessly peripatetic life can call home





#### JACKING THE SAWN LOGS ON TO THE TRUCKS FOR HAULING

In this work, a simple but ingenious form of jack is used. At one end is a handle and ratchet, and at the other a spike, which, stuck into the trunks along which the logs are rolled, by that means gets a purchase, and a turn of the handle does the rest. Thus these men are able to move great logs many times their own weight and save the expense of mechanical hauling apparatus



#### RATTLING ALONG A ROUGH RAILROAD TO THE TIMBER MILL

At last, felled, sawn, rolled to the trucks, and fast bound in steel fetters, the harvest of the woodland is borne behind a busily puffing engine to the mill where these great kauri logs will soon take other forms. Most of the trees of New Zealand are hard-wood and of great commercial value, but so fast were these great forests of the Dominion despoiled for timber and pasturage that a Forestry Department had to be created to regulate timber conservation for future years

*Photos, New Zealand Government*





#### TRAVELLING THE SKIPPER'S DRIVE, A ROAD 'TWTIXT SKY AND ABYSS

For almost two miles this dizzy roadway has been cut in the jagged face of the rock, crossing the Dan O'Connell Range from Queenstown, on the beauteous lake of Wakatipu to Maori Point. This is the kind of obstacle that the New Zealand engineer has had to encounter continually in railway and road construction over the serried Alpine ridges that separate east from west in South Island





#### LINE OF RHYTHMICALLY TAPPING POI DANCERS AT WHAKAREWAREWA

There are numerous traditional games and dances that still survive among the Maoris, one of the oldest being the poi dance, which is more an affair of posture than of ordinary dancing movements. The participants stand or squat in a row or rows and whirl their poi-balls, made of raupo leaves, keeping time to a chant. In this case a modern note is struck with an accordion

*Photo, Underwood Press Service*



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possess an ideal climate and New Zealand rules them with a light hand. An interesting brown race, the Moriori, which once owned the Chathams, was almost exterminated a hundred years ago by ferocious Maori invaders, and has now died out. A smaller, similar group, the Kermadecs, lying about five hundred miles north of the North Island, is also blest in both soil and climate. Its broken volcanic hillsides are thickly clothed with semi-tropical vegetation. You can grow anything there, and the sea swarms with fish.

But the largest islet only measures about seven thousand acres, and as they lie off the track of the sea-routes with Polynesia the Kermadecs remain uninhabited. Of the storm-beaten groups to the south of Stewart Island, the Aucklands, and Campbell Island are alone important. The first-named interest botanists and geologists with their wild flowers and myriad sea-birds, while their dangerous western cliffs have been the cause of some curious and disastrous shipwrecks. When New Zealand became a British colony, in



FLAX-WOVEN DRESSES AND REED-WALLED HUTS IN A MAORI VILLAGE

As in other phases of their life, so in building, the old uses of the natives are dying out. The old-fashioned "whare," or house, roofed with a kind of thatch, with walls of bound reeds, and matting floor is giving place to a cheap type of shanty of weather-boarding. The garments of these women are woven from the phormium, or flax, plant, and show a variety of colours

*Photo, Merl La Voy*





#### HAPPY HANDS THAT CLAP IN MERRY UNISON

Women of all ages take part in these communal dances, and an inspection of the faces in these laughing lines of bright-clothed merry-makers shows a widely varying range of types. In the background is the elaborate carving of porch and doorway with which the Maori delights to deck his home, though there is a tendency for villages to wear a more prosaic look as time goes on

*Photo, Merl La Voy*

1840, the whites in it numbered, perhaps, between two and three thousand. They number now about 1,270,000, and many of them are the children or even grandchildren of New Zealand-born men and women. A race is being formed with distinguishing physical and mental qualities. Those of us who believe that countries and climates mould inhabitants note how boldly the island cliffs and mountains rise amid the fresh winds, scudding clouds, and restless surges of the South Pacific, recalling the lines in "Cymbeline" (iii, 1):

The natural bravery of your isle, which  
stands  
A Neptune's park, ribbed and paled in  
With rocks unscalable and roaring  
waters.

It seems inevitable that such a land should produce a brave, vigorous, practical people of healthy tenacity and purpose. And in the tall, broad-

shouldered figures and wind-reddened or sun-browned faces of the country-folk you see the physique you look for. What the picked New Zealand youth is like is known by anyone who saw the Anzacs and remembers their unbeaten record at Gallipoli, their heroic sufferings in Flanders, and their share in the triumphant "break through" in France in the last months of the Great War.

In his own country the New Zealander is an intelligent, industrious, self-confident but very orderly person. An extremely small force of police keeps down crime to a minimum. Riots and deeds of bloodshed are almost unknown. There is drunkenness, but it seldom leads to violence. Even in the roughest districts no one carries a revolver. Backwoodsmen and cowboys of the "Wild West" cinema type are non-existent. Despite the extension of railways and the popularity of motor-cars, the islands still contain large





**STRAIGHT AND STURDY MAORI SOLDIER AND HIS DEADLY WOODEN SPEAR**

Before the ending of the Maori war stayed the strife between native and coloniser, this warrior people had developed the communal life to its utmost, and every man, and sometimes woman, was ready at a moment's notice to answer the tribal call to war. With tomahawk and heavy wooden spear the Maori rushed to battle, and often, when the foe was killed he was cooked

*Photo, American Museum of Natural History*





#### TIMBER FIGHTING TOWER THAT STRENGTHENS A FORTIFIED VILLAGE

In the construction and strategic design of their forts and protected villages the Maoris had great skill. Palisades and deep trenches were in common use, while salient points were further defended by towers over twenty feet high, such as this, upon which stands a lonely sentinel waving his tufted spear. Store-houses crammed with food and weapons stood ever ready against beleaguering.

*Photo, Merl La Voy*





#### DOING THE WASHING IN A POOL OF THE HOT SPRINGS DISTRICT

On all sides of this Maori woman quietly washing her garments are grand and disquieting evidences of the earth's internal heat. Geysers of all sizes emit pillars of scalding water, huge puddles of boiling mud seethe and suck, and clouds of steam eddy and blow over all. For centuries the natives have used these waters as curatives, and now Europeans take medicinal baths here

*Photo, Merl La Voy*

numbers of Kipling's "men who can shoot and ride." But they shoot only at targets or at wild ducks and deer, and their horsemanship is prosaic business. When riding after sheep and cattle, they bustle the stock as little as possible, and cover much ground at a foot-pace. When on a journey they save their horses as much as they can. The most hasty and impatient riders in the country are the Maoris.

Distances in the islands are not continental, and though a population twelve to the square mile means that settlers are thinly scattered in many areas, utter solitude is rare except among the mountains. The lonely pioneer, curt, taciturn, and loathing towns and crowds, is a very rare person nowadays. Nearly all settlers have neighbours not impossibly far away,

and rural isolation is tempered by a good postal service and, above all, by the telephone, a civilizing influence which the Government has had the good sense to push energetically in the back country as well as in the towns.

As a race, New Zealanders are cheery, sociable, hospitable. Absolute social equality you do not see; there are well-defined lines of social demarcation. But there is also a sense of civic equality and easy toleration on all sides. One set may not associate intimately with another. But decent people all meet on a basis of mutual respect, with a fair approach to understanding, and with an almost complete absence of patronage by the richer or brutal over-assertion and swaggering defiance on the side of Labour. There are exceptions, of course; I speak of the rule. It is what



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you might expect in a community where education—up to a point—is universal, and where the social miseries of extreme poverty are unknown.

An overwhelming majority of the million and a quarter of white people are of English, Scottish, or Irish blood, or the blood of those races blended. For the three are well intermixed, and racial feeling does very little harm in

public or private life. The Scottish element is larger than in any other British dependency except, perhaps, in some parts of Eastern Canada. This is a compliment to New Zealand, because Scottish settlers, when necessity leaves them liberty of choice, are very good judges of country; the best is good enough for them. Roman Catholics furnish about thirteen per cent. of the



### WHERE NATURE PROVIDES HOT BATHS ALL THE YEAR ROUND

Whakarewarewa is a Maori village two miles south of Rotorua in North Island, and in the centre of the hot springs district, and here the boys and girls are happily soaking themselves in one of the cavities in the earth filled with volcanically-heated water that abound there. The temperature of these springs varies from sixty to over two hundred degrees Fahrenheit

*Photo, Underwood Press Service*





**MAORI AMAZON AND HER CARVEN CLUB**

In former days it was not uncommon for the women to follow their men to battle, encouraging warlike fervour by their carelessness of death. The Maori taste for carving is seen to advantage in their weapons

*Photo, American Museum of Natural History*

inhabitants, and are almost all Irish. Their hierarchy will not accept the national system of free, secular education. Now and then, moreover, some perfervid Irish patriot makes a wild speech condemned by the newspapers. So at times you are told of a Roman Catholic question, and there is some anti-Catholic organizing. But at least nineteen-twentieths of the Roman Catholics desire nothing better than to go about their business quietly as loyal subjects, and most Protestants take extremely little interest in anti-Catholic outbursts, though they guard their educational system very jealously. The net result of it all is that Roman

Catholic candidates find it rather hard to get into parliament. The admixture of continental Europeans in New Zealand is very small, especially in the South Island. Almost the only example worth noting are Scandinavians and Yugo-Slavs, the latter almost all hailing from Dalmatia and Bosnia. The Scandinavians are the best as well as the most numerous of the foreigners, and in a generation or so are indistinguishable from the British. The few hundred Germans who lived quite inoffensively in the Dominion before the Great War are not likely to increase much now. The Asiatics, about 5,000, of whom three-fifths are Southern Chinese, have been the mark of much restrictive law-making, but have contrived somehow or other to grow in numbers during the last few years. They are not useful colonists; the notion that the towns would lack vegetables

were it not for the Chinese market gardeners is nonsense. New Zealanders are no mean gardeners.

What does this tough, energetic, insular race do? It is a community of workers, though sports are popular and hours shorter than in Europe. The poor work, of course. The comfortable, who are many, work. The rich, still comparatively few, work also. There are no idlers. The moiety living in towns and suburbs are not at all concentrated in one centre. Auckland, the largest and most attractive city, manages to claim 160,000 inhabitants, but that is only done by taking in a liberal portion of the very pleasant tract encircling it.





#### NOSE TO NOSE AND HAND TO HAND IN COURTEOUS SALUTATION

This form of greeting, which takes the place of the kiss—the latter a salute unknown or despised over nearly half the world, by Polynesians, Mongols, and Malays—is often incorrectly described as “rubbing noses,” whereas the nostrils are in reality pressed together; the essential fundamental distinction being between smelling and tasting, the primeval origins of these two salutations

*Photo, Stanley R. Norton*



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Wellington and Christchurch do not quite contain 110,000 each, and Dunedin has less than 75,000 in city and suburbs. The amount of grass land in some New Zealand suburbs would startle a British slum-dweller. Wanganui, the fifth town, has less than 25,000 people.

Decidedly the New Zealanders are not closely packed, and are to be congratulated thereon. Their towns are thriving and respectable rather than imposing, and if the architect finds little to admire, the social reformer finds less to lament. Workmen do not herd in barracks, but dwell in decent cottages ;

the number of separate gardens is very noticeable. Cleanly comfort and wholesome decency go a long way to make up for the lack of artistic grandeur or historic interest.

To outsiders the more interesting features of New Zealand life are to be looked for outside towns and suburbs. The larger half of the population is happily still rural and, except the coal miners and some of the gold miners, lives and works in the open air. Their main business is to grow food, mainly meat, butter, and cheese, and raw materials, chiefly wool hides and tallow,



MAORI GRANDAM AT FLAX MAT-MAKING BEFORE HER HUT

Mats made of that most useful of plants to the Maoris—New Zealand flax—are used both as carpets and as clothing, in the latter case being often interwoven with bright-hued feathers. This aged crone, with tattooed chin, dressed in a medley of cast-off garments once belonging to her white neighbours, “pakehas,” as these foreigners are called, enjoys her smoke as she works away





#### WRINKLES AND TATTOOING

This ageing lady, who in her youth gilded beauty's lily with the tattooer's art, can at least claim distinction from this artificial brightness that has outlasted her own

*Photo, American Museum of Natural History*

for older and more populous countries. Of course, they feed their own population, and do something towards clothing it by providing wool for local factories. The timber-cutters and saw-millers also cater mainly for the local market, as do the coal miners.

But the farmers, graziers, and dairy-men look mostly overseas. The world-market controls the prices of their produce, and the European demand determines for them the question of prosperity or depression. Continental and American buyers compete for their wool at auctions at both ends of the world. Americans are beginning to buy their butter. But, broadly speaking, their great market is in England, where their sales still centre in London, despite efforts to divert shipments to the north and west.

New Zealand farmers are not great growers of cereals. Add their crops of wheat, oats, barley, and rye together, and they do not exceed fifteen or sixteen million bushels. Eastern New Zealand

is well suited for cereals, and the yield per acre is very good. But the farmer prefers grazing. Wool, meat, butter, and cheese seem to him to ensure a less precarious return and a less anxious life; they also, except dairying, demand less manual labour, and the small dairy farmer does most of his own labour with the help of his family, with considerable consequent reduction of expense.

The peculiar feature of New Zealand grazing is that so much of it is done on what the colonists call "English grass," that is, the grasses commonly used by farmers in England. The capacity of these to carry livestock is so very much greater than that of the native pastures that, wherever possible, the clovers, cocksfoot, rye-grass, fescues, and so forth of the Old Country are made to take their place. Huge areas of the lovely native forests are ruthlessly felled and burned, and grass-seed scattered in the ashes. Hundreds of thousands of



#### WARMLY WRAPPED IN FLAX

Lying below the thirty-fourth parallel of south latitude, the temperature of the Dominion, especially in the hills, is often cold enough for clothing like this

*Photo, Meri La Voy*





**JOVIAL MAORI WHO LAUGHED AND GREW FAT**

In the old days the Maoris were always in good training for inter-tribal warfare, and the ardours of the food hunt compelled it. Now, in the quiescence of peace, there is a tendency towards accretion of adipose tissue

*Photo, Merl La Voy*

acres of swamp are scientifically drained at great cost, and after the dried surface has been burned, it also is sown and, consolidated by the treading of sheep and cattle, changes to dairy pasture worth thirty or forty pounds an acre.

Where the colonist found open grass-clad tracks, the task was cheaper and easier. The ground was ploughed, a crop of wheat or oats taken off it, and it was then laid down in pasture. Only in the mountains and the rougher hills and on poorer soils are the native grasses still allowed to cover the surface. The result is that, out of thirty-one million acres of grass land turned to use in New Zealand, about seventeen million are now reckoned to be in "English grass." The land under crop and in garden, orchard, or plantation may be put at

about 12,000,000 acres. This means that quite half the surface of New Zealand is still almost untouched; but, for reasons before hinted at, the task of redeeming such as is worth improving must for the most part be slow.

The livestock of the New Zealand farmer includes twenty-three million sheep, three million horned cattle, and about three hundred and fifty thousand horses. That valuable animal, the New Zealand sheep, whose carcass is such a familiar sight at Smithfield, is usually a cross of some British breed and the merino. The breeder's object is to obtain mutton and lamb suitable for freezing, with as good a fleece of cross-bred wool as possible. Many experiments have been made in crossing, and changes are still going on.

The New Zealand farmer is now by no means the rough, primitive settler he once was. He is an educated man, with an ambition to be up to date and a respect for agricultural science. Agricultural colleges and professional chairs are supported. Farmers' cooperative societies are a power in the land. Numbers of the dairy factories are cooperative, and farmers are large shareholders in the freezing and canning companies. At some of the cattle shows splendid specimens of livestock are exhibited.

The farmer is by common admission the backbone of his country, is fully aware of his value, and expects to be treated accordingly. He has his way to quite a remarkable extent. Financiers, public and private, regulate their policy



## NEW ZEALAND & ITS PEOPLES



### MAORI WAR-PAINT

These horrific face-markings and the pose are the quintessence of joyous death-dealing

with a view to his requirements. The newspapers voice his demands and grievances. Shipping companies lower their freights to aid him ; politicians wait on him cap in hand, soliciting his suffrage, and governments tremble at his nod. He is the chief counterbalancing influence to the power of organized Labour, and his strength and interest

in public affairs are the main reason why Labour, despite its numbers and activities, has never yet captured one-fourth of the seats in the House of Representatives.

After farming—a long way—come mining and timber-cutting and saw-milling. The mining is of coal and gold, and the latter shows a diminishing output. The bituminous coal is of first-class quality, but the proved supply is so far limited that geologists shake their heads and predict its exhaustion in a hundred years. The amount of brown coal known to exist is much larger.

Until the present century not much had been done to develop the quite unusual water-power running to waste in both islands. But between 1900 and 1920 the amount turned to use increased



### EARTH'S MOST SPLENDID SAVAGE

Far surpassing many European types in physique and countenance, this youth of the Maoris provides a forceful argument for the native retaining his costume. A bowler hat would but add bathos to this Apollo of the Pacific

*Photos, American Museum of Natural History*





#### SKILLED SURVIVOR OF A DISAPPEARING LINE OF MAORI CRAFTSMEN

No better instance of the fact that modernity is slowly creeping upon the Maori could be shown than this house of a native wood-carver, decorated in front with work of barbaric exquisiteness and roofed behind with corrugated iron. Most of the human figures in Maori carving have only three fingers, in memory of Nuku-mai-teko, the traditional first house decorator, who was similarly destitute

five times. The Government and local bodies have taken the matter in hand; millions are being borrowed for the purpose, and the next decade should see a marked expansion in the employment of electric power in both town and country.

The external trade of the islands has reached a yearly figure approaching £90,000,000, an astonishing volume of business for so small a community. The coastal trade, and so much of the external as is done with Australia and Polynesia is carried in New Zealand-owned ships manned by seamen of the country.

New Zealanders are what they would describe as a "sporting lot." They have managed to acclimatise most of the open-air diversions of the motherland except fox-hunting. Foxes may not be imported, but horses are common enough, and packs of harriers are kept and followed. Horse-racing is almost as popular as in Australia, and, since the

English thorough-bred thrives, the racing is good. Betting is done through the pari-mutuel—colonially called the totalisator—and there is a great deal of it. The healthier pastimes of shooting and angling are pursued ardently. The brown trout and rainbow trout furnish excellent fly-fishing, though the European salmon still defies acclimatisation. Sea-fishermen can count on good sport, and in the north may include sharks in their bag.

Several kinds of wild duck are preserved by law during close seasons, and provide capital sport; one, the grey duck, is very good eating. Another game bird, a large blue rail, the pukeko, is an easy victim, and the native parrots and wild pigeons fly too slowly to be any test of the fowler's skill. Rabbits swarm in certain districts, and can be shot, though the serious work of extermination is done by poison. One of the successes of acclimatisation has been that of the



## NEW ZEALAND & ITS PEOPLES

red deer, thousands of which are now to be seen, chiefly in the Southern Alps. Their weight and the size of their antlers have often surprised British sportsmen. Fallow deer are to be found in the south.

Among introduced animals which have become wild and are hunted are cattle and pigs. The latter, as a result of generations of life in the wilderness, have become comparatively lean, fierce, and active, have developed formidable tusks, and when chased on foot are hard to run down. The settlers hunt them with dogs, and knife or spear them when

brought to bay. In some mountain ranges small flocks of goats, descended from domestic runaways, have established themselves. The Government is trying to naturalise the chamois, and has succeeded with the wapiti and the Canadian moose in the Alps. Even as things are, sportsmen are not badly off in either island.

The most popular athletic game is, of course, Rugby Union football, and the All-Black uniform of New Zealand football rivals frozen meat and Anzac bravery in the honour of being the



FEATHERED TRESSES, DEFTLY PARTED, FRAME SMILING FACES

Left to themselves, the Maoris devise garments at once pleasing to the eye, appropriate to climate and country, and naturally suited to them. These include a sort of kilt, sometimes the sole garment for women, mats of skilled workmanship, and a kind of blanket shawl decorated with flax, at the weaving of which they show great skill. Feathers are also much used to adorn clothing

*Photo, Keystone View Co.*



## NEW ZEALAND & ITS PEOPLES

New Zealand article best known in the mother country. In sculling, the islanders can claim Webb and other first-class performers, and have also produced a lawn-tennis champion, Anthony Wilding, who died unbeaten, killed in the war. New Zealand cricket is a pleasant game, but of a standard of play not equal to the Australian.

Boating, yachting, motoring, picnicking, and mountain climbing compete seriously with cricket in a climate where long spells of dry, genial summer weather can be reckoned on. Auckland harbour and the Hauraki Gulf are ideal waters for sailing in open boats and cutters. The Alpine climbers of the south have a literature of their own, of which the books of Malcolm Ross and Stopford Green are the most readable. Gardening is not only a business but a favourite recreation under skies so kindly to fruits and flowers. The native flora is peculiarly rich in ferns, from tall tree-ferns downwards, and the collection and rearing of these is the hobby of many.

The Brown New Zealanders—Nga Tangata Maori, as the Maori people call themselves—have perhaps attracted as much attention as any small barbaric race known. In physique, language, character, and traditions they are Eastern Polynesians, and probably came from Rarotonga and Nicué (Savage Island), voyaging in large double canoes, and, aided by the prevalent northerly winds, reached the North Island in successive migrations. Settling there they split up into tribes and sub-tribes, dwelling in stockaded villages, and living by gardening, fowling, and fishing.

Utterly cut off from mankind, without cereals, pottery, metals, leather, flocks and herds, or writing, they were still a neolithic race when Captain Cook described them a hundred and fifty years ago. By carefully allotted labour they managed, thanks to their very considerable intelligence, to maintain what was for savages rather a high standard of living. Their ferocious cannibalism, their strangely tattooed faces, their



COMELY CLOAKED COOKS WHO STIR THE EVENING MEAL

When living in contact with whites the Maori adopts many of the new and strange foods of the latter, as, left to himself, his bill of fare is something limited. Fish and eels and potatoes and pork, with a certain amount of native game, are all that is available, but lack of variety is made up in quantity, as may be seen in the ample dimensions of this family bowl

*Photo, American Museum of Natural History*



## NEW ZEALAND & ITS PEOPLES

cruel inter-tribal wars, and their reckless personal bravery, made them a name of terror to the earlier navigators. On the other hand, their courteous and sociable manners, curiosity, readiness to learn, and keen desire to trade, soon bred intercourse between them and the roving traders, timber-cutters, whalers, and sealers who began to haunt their coasts.

The narratives of some of these men show the Maoris living under a semi-communistic system, dominated by chiefs and priests whose persons and possessions were hedged round by an elaborate system of protection called tapu. Their religion was a polytheism, some of its legends having an odd resemblance to the Hellenic, but the laws of tapu and muru formed, with their tribal land-ownership and defensive organization, the main influences governing their lives. Their tohunga, or priests, were their story-tellers, genealogists, and doctors, and seem to have had a genuine acquaintance with what is now called psychic science. The tribes fought with clubs, spears, and stone tomahawks. Acquaintance with the white man led to a competitive race for muskets, and a sickening slaughter of the unlucky enemies who failed to secure them.

It is not likely that the Maoris ever numbered more than 150,000, and when the British annexed their country they had certainly diminished to 80,000 or 90,000 at most. Tubercular disease—still their chief enemy—venereal infection, bad sanitation, bad European clothing, coarse tobacco, spirits of indescribable vileness, and the depression caused by their retreat before the white influx, further reduced them during the next half-century. Then began a recovery. They became used to peace. Education and the example of the better settlers gave them fresh interests and hopes. The Government did something to protect them from drink, and their own intelligence did more.

Some of their chiefs and men of education set actively to work to save

their race. Medical science helped the good work, and the Churches showed sympathy, as indeed they always had. The Maoris have become roughly civilized British citizens, able to read and write, making some progress in farming, keen about their political rights but perfectly loyal, friendly in their bearing, and expecting civility in return. An educated



### FOREIGN DRESS: SPOILT CHARMS

Maori women, as those of other races in touch with the white man, make the mistake of wearing discarded European, instead of their own native and more becoming, dress

*Photo, Underwood Press Service*

Maori speaks and carries himself like a gentleman.

The tradition of their bravery inspires respect; their fondness for riding and sports adds a human touch, and there is probably no part of the Empire where there is less repulsion, contempt, or fear dividing the white from coloured than in New Zealand. During the present century the numbers of the Maoris have certainly increased, and the race bids



## NEW ZEALAND & ITS PEOPLES

fair to survive, though with a steadily strengthening admixture of white blood.

By common consent the early settlers of the colony contained a larger number of men of education and strong character than usual. Partly for that reason, perhaps, the native-born New Zealanders have only lately begun to fill most of the leading places in their country. With few exceptions the roll of distinguished names in its story is made up of those of British-born men. The native-born,

however, are now coming to their own, and in the future will take definite charge of the Dominion and its affairs.

Perhaps among the most widely-known of New Zealand-bred men are Professor Ernest Rutherford and Governor Sir William Marris, one of whom made his reputation in England and the other in India. Before very long New Zealand will be large enough for a local career to bring renown. If, so far, the New Zealanders have shown more practical sagacity than intellectual brilliancy, it is because the task of breaking in the wilderness in a remote archipelago needs the qualities which they have brought into action.

Tenacity, endurance, and enterprise in industry; moderation and an admixture of caution in governing on boldly democratic lines; toleration and a reasonable capacity for cooperation in public and private life—these have enabled the colonists and their sons in eighty years to transform a difficult, bloodstained, useless wilderness into a tranquil, wealthy, and highly civilized State. Such men have had to produce the essentials rather than the ornaments of civilization, to grow food before flowers. Philosophy, art, and literature have had to wait. But they buy pictures, they read books, they enjoy music, they value education, they watch what goes on in the outside world, and travel when they can.

If their best prose writing seems meritorious rather than inspired; if an anthology of New Zealand verse of more than average quality would make but a very slender volume; if the public speaking of their statesmen is rather business-like than eloquent, it is only fair to remember that New Zealand is still more of a promising youth than a mature adult. Men of action, the colonists have had to leave artistic achievement to their successors, who in good time will no doubt deserve their share of the laurels won by the British race in literature, art, invention, and philosophic thought.



### WILD AND FLOWING LOCKS

Her unbound hair that ripples to the waist gives the last wild touch to this bare-shouldered Maori woman, with her parti-coloured flax-woven dress and net bag

*Photo, Merl La Voy*



# NEW ZEALAND

## *Among its Maori Natives*



*Competence personified is this handsomely attired Maori matron outside her low-caved, reed-built home in the cleanly native village*

Photo, Merl la Voy





*Action dances are a popular Maori amusement. The performers stand in rows and twirl light balls of raupo leaves, beating them on their heads and breasts and shoulders to the time set by a rhythmic song*

Photo, Marl la Voy





*Fun goes gaily in the communal carved houses of the Maoris. When fired by their action dances they turn to quicker games to tiki-toke, perhaps, played seated with sticks, or matimati with the hands alone*

*Photos, Merl la Voe*





*Her own deft fingers fashioned the flaxen cloak and gown of this pretty Maori girl smiling in the security of her stalwart husband's care*

Photo, Merl la Voy





*Mirth convulses the Maori Juliet listening from her carved balcony  
to the laughing protestations of her robust and muscular Romeo below*

Photo, Merl la Voy





*Finely tattooed scrollwork, curves, and spirals on forehead, cheeks, nose, and chin added barbaric dignity to the old Maori in his war paint*

Photo, Keystone View Company





*Shell-ringed raven hair frames the strong face of the Maori matron,  
and ropes of shells and seeds relieve the rich warmth of her skin*

Photo, American Museum of Natural History





*Three things, say the Maoris, are the mark and token of a Maori chief: his sharp-edged club of greenstone, flax cloak, and carved house*

Photo, Keystone View Company



# New Zealand

## II. From Colony to Self-governing Dominion

By A. D. Innes, M.A.

Author of "History of England and the British Empire"

**T**WELVE hundred miles to the south-east of the Australian continent lie the great islands which, along with sundry islets, form the Dominion of New Zealand.

There is no record of any European having seen or set foot on these islands until they were discovered by the Dutchman, Abel Tasman, on December 13, 1642; hence their Dutch name of New Zealand, that of New Holland having been already appropriated. Though Tasman landed, and claimed the country for his own Government, he met with so vigorously hostile a reception from the Maori inhabitants that no attempt at occupation was made then or subsequently by the Dutch. New Zealand, in fact, did not attract even casual exploration until it was visited by Captain Cook in 1769.

He found New Zealand—the great North and South islands, with the much smaller Stewart Island, at the southern extremity—inhabited by the Maoris, the most vigorous and, in some respects, the most advanced of the Polynesian races. According to their own tradition they had immigrated from islands far to the north some thousand years before. The previous inhabitants disappeared, partly wiped out and partly, it may be, absorbed.

Captain Cook, in his turn, after exploring the entire coast, claimed the country as British; but there was still no official occupation. A few years later the colonisation of Australia was inaugurated, and by the beginning of the nineteenth century stray Europeans, mostly British rolling stones, were coming more or less to rest, ostensibly as traders, on the shores of New Zealand, mainly on the north-east Bay of Islands. In 1814 a more reputable element was introduced by the arrival of English missionaries.

### New Zealand's Maori Owners

Unlike Australia, New Zealand was in possession of a race essentially superior to the Australian "Black-Fellow," physically and intellectually. He was a barbarian who practised cannibalism and offered human sacrifices as late as the "forties" of the nineteenth century, but he was not a mere savage—a human animal. He had very definite ideas as to property and common action, and he lived under a distinctly advanced tribal system. The whole of the North Island and part of

the South Island were in Maori occupation—the land, that is, was definitely parcelled out among the tribes; no stranger could settle on any part of it without the tribe's leave, or presume to claim any right to the soil. Even the chief, to whom the tribe gave its obedience, could alienate no part of the land without the sanction of the tribe, whose property it was.

The Maori did not receive the white intruder inhospitably; but he was not easily tricked, and was by no means to be coerced. On the whole, the white man was tolerated. But being commonly of the type which has no compunctions about either trickery or bullying when dealing with "natives," troubles and outrages were not infrequent.

### Proconsulship of Hobson and Grey

As a consequence, jurisdiction over British subjects in New Zealand was given by Act of Parliament to the Government of New South Wales in 1817. Commercial interest in New Zealand began to be aroused and jealousy excited by the activities of a Frenchman, Baron de Thierry. The prospect of a possible French settlement led to the appointment of a British magistrate with vague authority in 1833, and in 1839 a New Zealand company was formed in England for the colonisation of the islands. At the same time fear of inconvenient complications caused New Zealand to be formally included in the jurisdiction of the New South Wales Government, with a lieutenant-governor, Captain Hobson, appointed by the Crown.

The sovereignty of the Maoris was not thereby challenged. Conquest would be morally indefensible, and from a military point of view both costly and difficult. British sovereignty, however desirable, could only be established by formal consent of the natives, with adequate guarantees for their rights and liberties. This Hobson obtained by the treaty of Waitangi (1840), made with the chiefs of a confederation of tribes in the North Island, the Maoris having no common sovereign recognized by the several tribes. The chiefs surrendered their several sovereignties to the Queen of England, while the Maoris retained their proprietary rights in the land unimpaired except for the provision that the Crown should have the right of pre-emption of any lands they



## NEW ZEALAND: HISTORICAL SKETCH

were willing to alienate in order to prevent the complications certain to arise from their sale in private treaty by individuals.

Within a few months practically all the tribes had come in, nor did any serious difficulties subsequently arise in the South Island, of which, in fact, only a small portion was in Maori occupation. It was otherwise, however, in the North Island. The treaty was perfectly understood by the Maoris and by Hobson, who, in the same year, became governor of New Zealand as a separate colony, not a dependency of New South Wales. But the English settlers were disposed to regard it as a mere formality, to be ignored so far as it safeguarded Maori rights. The New Zealand Company set to work, and purchased great tracts of land direct from the Maori chiefs on its own terms.

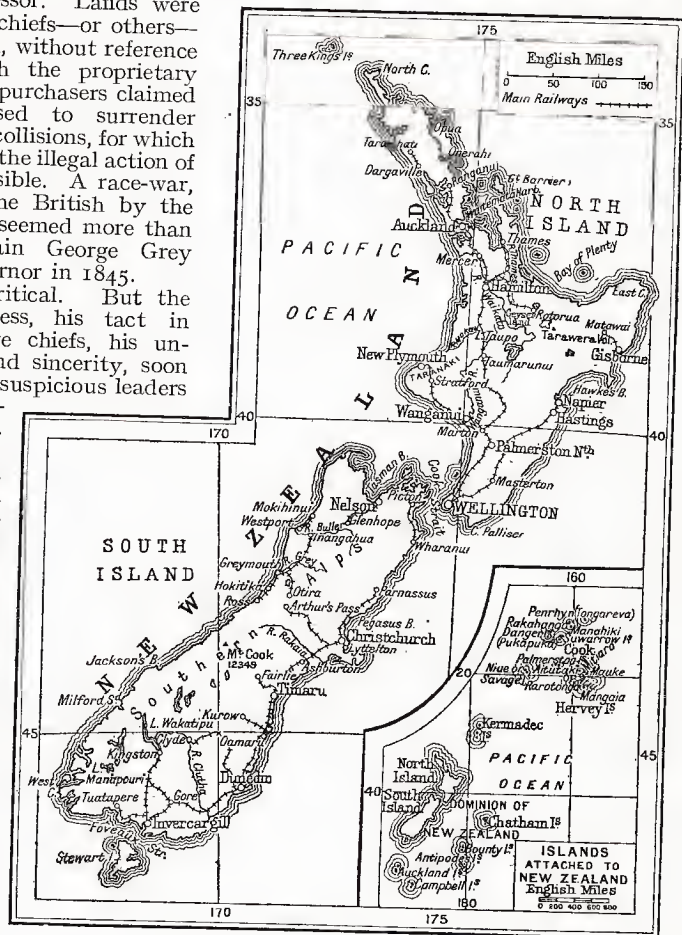
The effects were disastrous. The Government was weakened by the death of Hobson, the inevitable hesitation of interim governors to take drastic action, and the well-intentioned incapacity of Hobson's official successor. Lands were sold to the British by chiefs—or others—who had no title to sell, without reference to the tribe in which the proprietary right was vested. The purchasers claimed and the tribes refused to surrender possession. There were collisions, for which it is perfectly clear that the illegal action of the British was responsible. A race-war, for the expulsion of the British by the justly-irritated Maoris, seemed more than probable, when Captain George Grey happily arrived as governor in 1845.

The situation was critical. But the new governor's frankness, his tact in dealing with the native chiefs, his uncompromising justice and sincerity, soon convinced the hitherto suspicious leaders that the treaty obligations would be enforced on the whites as firmly as on the Maoris. Many of them joined forces with the Government against the more persistent insurgents, who were decisively vanquished in a brief campaign. Measures were promptly taken to secure the administration of justice in accordance with Maori custom, to put an end to all land purchase except through the Government, and to make restitution wherever justice demanded it.

Grey remained in New Zealand for eight years. He was the type of governor who dares to exceed his authority and

act upon his own first-hand knowledge when he receives impossible directions from the superior authority acting on second-hand information on the other side of the globe. Happily, also, he had the skill to convince the home Government that he was right and their advisers were wrong. He ignored a Land Act and a brand new Constitution from Westminster, but he himself devised a Constitution fitted to the peculiar conditions, which, with little modification, was sanctioned by the Imperial Government in 1852.

Grey's Constitution, slightly modified later, divided New Zealand into six provinces, each self-governing as concerned its own local affairs, but all subordinate to the supreme Government—the equivalent of "the King in Parliament," the governor, a nominated Legislative Council, and an elective House of Representatives, who, together, formed the General Assembly. The legislative powers of the General Assembly were practically limited only by the proviso



THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND



## NEW ZEALAND: HISTORICAL SKETCH

that legislation must not be "repugnant to the laws of England." The Maoris, however, were not represented either in the Provincial Councils or in the General Assembly; the "Native Department" was still (until 1864) reserved from the control of the Colonial Government—though against Grey's wishes—as also was the land control, in accordance with the doctrine that the land was the property of the Crown.

Meanwhile, white colonisation had been progressing rapidly in the South Island, where it was not hampered by Maori opposition, though without any such abnormal impetus as that of the Australian gold discoveries. In the North Island, however, Maori antagonism, alayed but not eradicated, was again growing stronger, leading up to the Maori war or wars which were constant from 1861 to 1867. In these wars the natives displayed a courage and a military skill which rendered their subjugation exceptionally difficult, while it was made, perhaps, more instead of less complicated by the return of Sir George Grey and the differences which arose between the governor, the military authorities responsible to the home Government, and the home Government itself.

Pacification was not finally attained till 1870, and even then ill-feeling survived, though in the course of the next fifty years it would seem to have passed away; seats both in the Representative Chamber and the Legislative Council having been conceded to the Maoris, and Maori warriors were in the contingents sent by New Zealand to take their glorious share in the Great War:

New Zealand has been distinguished as the most democratic of all the states composing the British Empire, largely, perhaps, because the conditions emphasise the antagonism of class interests less and the identity of class interests more, than in other regions. Legislative experiments have been unhampered by external complications. In Labour arbitration, in old age pensions, and in female suffrage, she has led the way. She has reaped the advantages of geographical isolation which she has shown herself unwilling to surrender for the sake of closer political attachment to the Australian Commonwealth, from which she resolved to remain apart, aiming rather at the status of a distinct East Polynesian power; an ambition encouraged by the appropriation to the Dominion (established in 1907) of minor Polynesian islands—not only of those in her immediate neighbourhood, like Auckland island, Chatham, and the Kermadecs (annexed in 1887), but of the more remote tropical easterly groups forfeited by Germany in the Great War.

Democratic development, however, and disinclination for absorption into the larger Australasian Federation by no means point to a lack of the instincts or sentiment which the British are wont to call Imperial. In proportion to her population and wealth, New Zealand may fairly boast of standing first, or at least in the very front, of the Britains overseas which have voluntarily assumed the burden of participation in the world-obligations of the great Commonwealth of Britain, both by her spontaneous contributions to the Fleet and by the great deeds of her contingents in the world-war for Freedom.

## NEW ZEALAND: FACTS AND FIGURES

### The Country

Includes the two main islands and a number of smaller ones in South Pacific. Area of North and South Islands about 102,250 square miles, with a population of some 1,320,000. Dominion divided into counties, ridings, and boroughs. New Zealand holds mandatory over former German colony of Western Samoa.

### Government and Constitution

In 1907, New Zealand was constituted a Dominion. Legislative authority rests with Governor-General and the General Assembly comprising Legislative Council, which may contain three Maori members, and House of Representatives, the last containing eighty members, including a few Maoris, elected by popular vote for three years. Any elector, male or female, is eligible for this second chamber.

### Defence

Compulsory service between ages of twelve and twenty-five, in junior and senior cadet force and territorial force. Service with the Reserve from age of twenty-five to thirty. Each military district provides an infantry brigade and other arms in proportion, the total peace strength being about 23,000. Naval force maintained

solely by voluntary enlistment and includes one training ship and a cruiser. There is also a Dominion Air Force.

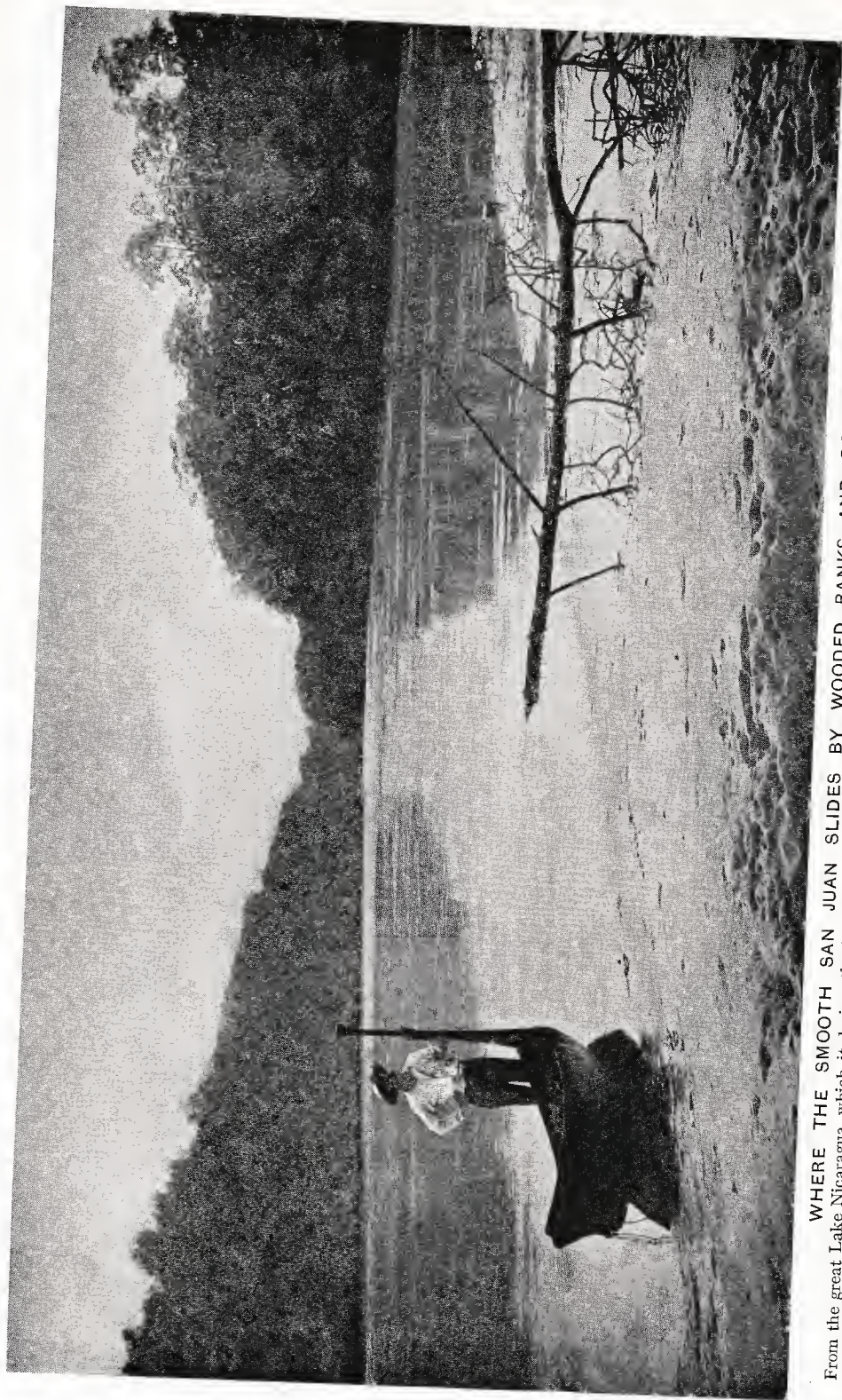
### Commerce and Industry

About 18,004,000 acres under cultivation, main crops including oats, barley, and wheat. Exports, of which the greater part go to Great Britain, comprise frozen meat, wool, cheese, sheepskins, butter, kauri gum, and phormium, and totalled £46,441,946 in 1920; imports, including drapery and textiles, motor cars and motor cycles, iron and steel, clothing, tobacco, and chemicals made an aggregate of £61,595,828 for the same year. Coal, gold, silver, and tungsten-ore are mined, and there are deposits of iron, copper, and manganese. Principal industry is sheep rearing for the wool and frozen meat trade. The various islands incorporated with New Zealand export bananas, pearl-shell, copra, oranges, and tomatoes. Coinage as in the United Kingdom.

### Chief Towns

Wellington, capital (population, 107,500), Auckland (157,700), Christchurch (105,600), Dunedin (72,200), Wanganui (23,500), Invercargill (19,200), Napier (17,000), Palmerston North (16,900), Timaru (15,500) Gisborne (14,500).





WHERE THE SMOOTH SAN JUAN SLIDES BY WOODED BANKS AND OOZY FLATS OF MUD

From the great Lake Nicaragua, which it drains, the San Juan winds tortuously and, save for a few short rapids, quite navigably for light draught boats for over one hundred miles to the blue Caribbean. It forms a portion of the boundary of Costa Rica, and, at the time of the proposed trans-Nicaraguan Canal, that was to cleave Central America, was an important part of the scheme of construction. Here, where the stream makes a wide bend, a boatman has grounded his craft

*Photo, L. E. Elliot*